

# The NUNES Report

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## Health care takes center stage

*Rep. Nunes calls for "Rural Health Care Delivery Summit" with Central Valley leaders*

Medical leaders from around the Central Valley will gather May 28 for a summit called for by Rep. Devin Nunes to address some of the critical issues facing health care in the region.

High poverty rates, chronic unemployment and low reimbursement rates for doctors are quickly eroding what's left of the area's health care system.

New physicians are reluctant to set up practices in the Central Valley because of the high Medi-Cal population, and some existing doctors are reluctant to take on new patients or work in trauma centers because of low or no reimbursement for their time. Other doctors are leaving the area altogether.

Recent events in Fresno County illustrate the problem. Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno has been unable to negotiate a new Medi-Cal contract with state officials. The hospital lost more than \$11 million last year and nearly \$41 million in the past five because of



**Rep. Devin Nunes participates in a roundtable discussion with members of the Rural Health Care Delivery Summit steering committee. Seated near the congressman are Family Healthcare Network President and CEO Harry Foster, and Community Medical Centers government and community relations manager John Taylor.**

**The steering committee is made up of 14 health care leaders in Fresno and Tulare counties.**

the high cost of medical care and low reimbursement rates from Medi-Cal.

To stem the outgoing tide of medical service in the Central Valley, Rep. Devin Nunes and others hope focused workshops may uncover some relief.

The summit will feature three workshops in which participants led by professional facilitators will craft

realistic proposals that could become part of a pilot medical enterprise zone in the Central Valley.

"This summit is not a cure all, but it is the most strategic effort to date aimed at pinning down practical solutions for problems facing health care delivery in the Central Valley," Mr. Nunes

**See Health Summit page 5**



**Rep. Devin Nunes shakes hands with President George W. Bush during a congressional event in Greenbrier, W.V. The two leaders have met on at least four occasions.**

## Nunes helps craft Energy Security Act

With prices at the gas pump soaring, Rep. Devin Nunes is helping take the lead to increase the domestic supply of oil and natural gas, which could lower prices for consumers and reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil.

As a member of the House Resources Committee, Rep. Devin Nunes played an important role in moving the Energy Security Act of 2003 through the legislative process in April.

A National Energy Policy report found that as energy consumption grows, domestic supplies have not matched the increase. As a result, U.S. consumers have increasingly come to rely on imported sources.

“Our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy can’t rely on last century’s supply and infrastructure,”



Starting second from left, Rep. Rick Renzi (R-AZ), Rep. Dennis Rehberg (R-MT), Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), Resources Chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA), Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK).

said Mr. Nunes after a hearing on the bill by the full Resources Committee. “Our energy consumption is estimated to increase by 32

percent, yet our domestic sources are only growing by two percent.

See ANWR next page

### Quick Facts

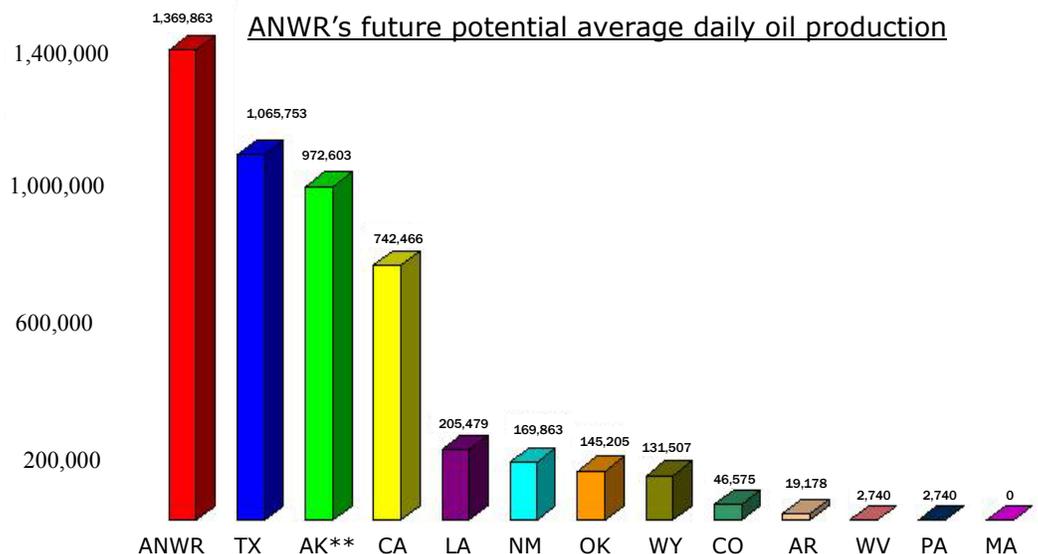
[www.nunes.house.gov](http://www.nunes.house.gov)  
Website traffic in April

Visits 2,122  
Avg visits per day 78  
Avg visit duration 6:20 minutes

#### Top five pages visited

April Newsletter 269  
Contact Info 175  
March Newsletter 122  
Photo Lab 115

### Average Daily Oil Production



\* Office of Oil and Gas, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, “Potential Oil Production from the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Updated Assessment” p. 6 (May 2000).

## Rep. Nunes testifies on transportation needs of district

In a campaign to get more federal transportation dollars for the Central Valley, Rep. Devin Nunes told the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in early April that roads in the world's most prolific agricultural region are disintegrating.

"For too long, taxpayers in California have donated money to transportation and infrastructure projects in other regions of the country," Mr. Nunes said during his testimony. "I believe that the time has come for California to reclaim some of the money that we lose on an annual basis to the federal government."

In fact, last year California taxpayers contributed \$46.9 billion dollars to the federal government - all of which was given to other states and not returned to local taxpayers.

"While all of these infrastructure improvement projects are important to my congressional district, the future of the San Joaquin Valley primarily rests on the health of State Route 99," he said. "This highway serves as the primary north/south transportation corridor for California's farm to market industry and functions as the single highway link connecting expanding Valley population centers between

Kern and Sutter Counties."

According to the state Department of Transportation, more than 46,000 vehicles pass along the four north/south lanes in Tulare County every day. That traffic volume is comparable to other stretches of 99 where there are six lanes.

The funding requested under TEA-21, Mr. Nunes said, will guarantee that 24 miles of the corridor are widened and the economic stability and physical health of the San Joaquin Valley will be secured for years to come.

The road conditions are more than a traffic hazard; they cause congestion and

contribute to the area's poor air quality. Some of the projects he emphasized included:

- \$6.2 and \$5 million for the City of Visalia to improve the Ben Maddox Bridge at Highway 198 and a downtown bus maintenance facility, respectively;
- \$60 million for rehabilitation of farm to market roads in Tulare County;
- \$10.7 million for street improvements around California State University at Fresno;
- \$10 million to alleviate traffic congestion on Peach Avenue near the Fresno airport

## ANWR—cont.'d

"We must find new, reliable sources of energy to maintain our economy and bolster our national security."

The energy bill would open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas leasing, subject to what Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton testified would be **"the most stringent environmental protection requirements ever applied to federal energy production."**

The coastal plain is of particular interest for its massive energy potential, which is estimated to be the largest discovery of oil in the United States.

Mr. Nunes traveled with other members of the Resources Committee to Alaska, where they held a field hearing on the possi-

bility of opening up oil production on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

"Of the residents who attended the meeting, they all supported opening up the 2,000-acre site to oil and gas leasing," Mr. Nunes said.

The bill also seeks to:

Create new or additional incentives for oil and gas development on federal lands and areas of the outer continental shelf that are not already off-limits to such development;

Increase geothermal power production on federal lands;

And optimize the power production of existing Bureau of Reclamation hydro facilities.



It was 32 degrees below zero when Rep. Devin Nunes reached the city of Kaktovik on Barter Island in Alaska.

**"I expected to see mountains, trees and caribou. For the most part, it's 19 million acres of flat land covered in ice," Mr. Nunes said.**

**The Bush administration is proposing allowing oil and gas production on 2,000 of the 19 million acre refuge.**

## OCA offers breath of fresh air

Rep. Devin Nunes has joined other concerned Valley leaders in the fight to improve air quality while maintaining and improving economic conditions.

As a featured speaker at the Operation Clean Air summit in Fresno, Mr. Nunes said he is committed to helping the group achieve its goals and improve the lives of Valley residents.

"I think what will make this effort effective is that it is coming from the people in the district themselves, instead of being handed down from the government," said Mr. Nunes, a member of the House Committee on Resources.

The congressman told the crowd at the Fresno Convention Center that, in addition to the efforts by Valley residents, great gains in air



**Fresno Mayor Alan Autry and Rep. Devin Nunes are working with a coalition of residents, businesses and government agencies to help improve air quality in the Central Valley.**

quality are on the horizon as the development of new technology helps reduce emissions from engines.

Surveys taken during the summit revealed most atten-

dees believed air quality could be improved in conjunction with efforts to improve the local economy. For more information, log on to [www.operationcleanair.org](http://www.operationcleanair.org)

*The Operation Clean Air proposal would provide an array of sustainable incentives to clean our air and increase economic prosperity in the San Joaquin Valley. Among them will be to:*

*Request creation of a special designation for the Valley analogous to an Economic Empowerment Zone, entitled "Air Quality Empowerment Zone," to inject additional resources into the*

*effort, including an assortment of sustainable incentives for development, implementation and local manufacturing of air enhancing products and processes and funding for research locally.*

*Enhance and expand current efforts to reduce emis-*

*sions from stationary sources (35% of overall sources) and secure funds to continue and expand those efforts.*

*Identify any and all other pollution sources, stationary, mobile and area, for which no current regulatory power exists and outline methods*

*to procure resources and legislation to effectively address this remaining 65%*

*of emission sources.*

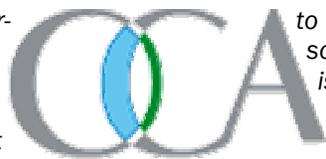
*Provide a tool to engage all Valley elected representatives (Federal, State, and Local) in a "D.C. Delivery" of the Plan and request for Air Quality Empowerment Zone designation and funding.*

*Outline resources neces-*

*sary for studies and implementation in areas such as: providing mass transit and light rail for the Valley's most populous metropolitan areas, increasing multi-modal stations, rail consolidation, and development of technology to enable transportation and industrial emission sources in the Valley to convert to substantially non-petroleum alternative fuel, natural gas, electric, fuel cell, or other ultra low or zero emission technology.*

*Recommend utilization of past, present and future sound scientific studies as a basis for air quality improvement strategies that will not be unduly burdensome.*

*Enlist the involvement of all Valley air quality stakeholders in an effort to address their needs in a collaborative and inclusive fashion.*



**Operation Clean Air**  
**The San Joaquin Valley Air Initiative**

## Rep. Nunes works to increase minority home ownership

**American Dream Down-payment Initiative will help 40,000 low-income and minority families afford a home**

Working with Housing Secretary Mel Martinez and other members of the Congressional Hispanic Conference, Rep. Devin Nunes is co-sponsoring the Bush Administration's *American Dream Down-payment Initiative* legislation

"I am pleased to have met with the Congressional Hispanic Conference because we share a belief in the great value of homeownership for families and communities," Martinez said.

The *American Dream Down-payment Initiative* will

open the door of homeownership to 40,000 more low-income and minority families



**HUD Secretary  
Mel Martinez**

by helping to offset the upfront costs of buying a home.

Mr. Nunes, who is Vice-Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Conference,

said, "Homeownership is the foundation upon which the American Dream is built. It's an integral part of taking pride in your family life and your community. As your family's largest, single investment, it's also an im-

portant part of your family's financial future."

The Blueprint for the American Dream Partnership, created last year by Martinez in response to President Bush's call to create 5.5 million new minority homeowners by 2010, is a coalition involving every segment of the housing industry. HUD and its partners hope to achieve the President's goal by:

- Educating more people in the home buying process;
- Increasing the supply of affordable homes;
- Providing more down payment and closing cost assistance; and
- Offering more home financing options for lower income Americans.

### **Western Caucus**

The congressman is taking steps to protect many California ideals by joining the Western Caucus.

The Western Caucus is a group of more than 50 members of Congress committed to the principles of a new environmentalism. The mission of Western Caucus is to focus on common sense environmental and natural resources policies. The Western Caucus strongly supports the following principles: Private Property Rights, Access to Public Lands, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), Local Control, Sound Science and Technology, Rural Quality of Life.

### **Congressional Mining Caucus**

In 2002, the 21st Congressional District of California received more than \$88 million in direct and indirect economic benefit from the domestic mining industry. There were at least 140 companies in the local area that are dependent on direct sales to the industry or use products in their processes that can only be produced from mining resources. All of this translates to almost 900 jobs for the district.

For this reason, Congressman Nunes joined the Congressional Mining Caucus. This caucus is designed to educate members on the economic, marketing, legislative and regulatory changes facing all sectors of the mining industry, including coal, base, precious, specialty and strategic minerals as well as agricultural and industrial minerals.

## Health Summit—cont.'d

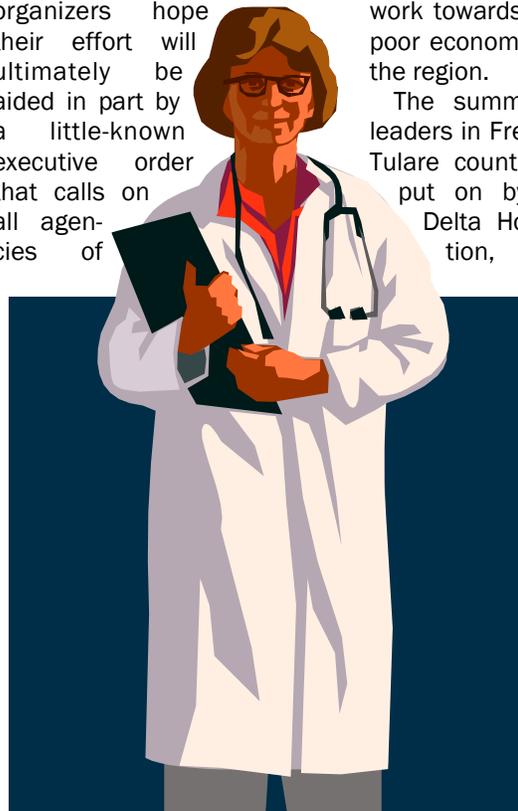
said.

Special attention is being focused on gathering input from physicians, who will be invited to attend an evening workshop tailored for their busy schedules prior to the summit.

While the challenges facing health care delivery are diverse and complicated, Mr. Nunes and medical leaders believe some of the root problems can be alleviated by focusing on ways to recruit and retain physicians in the rural region, and to relieve overcrowding and inappropriate use of hospital emergency departments by residents who are under- or uninsured.

"There is no silver bullet cure for poverty, but there are things we can do to make it easier to care for their health care needs," Mr. Nunes said.

The congressman and organizers hope their effort will ultimately be aided in part by a little-known executive order that calls on all agencies of



the federal government to work towards alleviating the poor economic conditions of the region.

The summit will include leaders in Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties. It is being put on by the Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation, the Hospital Council and the Tulare County Medical Society. The development of the summit has been guided by a 14-member steering committee of health care leaders.

## Legislative work continues heavy pace in April

### Agriculture

#### *USDA Technical Advisory Committees*

Congressman Nunes recommended the appointment of Joel Nelson (President, California Citrus Mutual) to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Committee (Agriculture Technical Advisory Committee) of the Department of Agriculture. Furthermore, he recommended the appointment of James Tillison (CEO, Alliance of Western Milk Producers) to the Animal and Animal Products Technical Advisory Committee of the Department of Agriculture.

#### *Dairy*

Congressman Nunes introduced H.R. 1659, which closes a loophole in federal law permitting a producer distributor in a federal milk marketing order to market products into a state milk



marketing order without participating in either pool. This loophole has the potential of costing more than a hundred million dollars to California dairies.

### Armenian Issues

#### *Armenian Genocide*

Congressman Nunes joined hundreds of his colleagues in sending a letter to President Bush urging him to properly recognize the Armenian Genocide. He



Congressman Nunes signed a letter sent to Secretary Anthony Principi, Department of Veterans' Affairs, requesting the termination of contracts with IMERYS. IMERYS is a company based in France, and currently supplies marble headstones for the Department, including those placed at Arlington National Cemetery.

***"France has actively undermined United States national interests and should not supply the headstones intended to honor the sacrifices of our troops."***

specifically requested that the President correctly characterize the Armenian Genocide as genocide during his annual April 24th commemoration statement.

Congressman Nunes expressed his strong support for true recognition of the Armenian Genocide by co-sponsoring legislation that would commemorate the 15th anniversary of U.S. implementation of the Genocide Convention.

### Banking

Congressman Nunes signed a letter with other Members of the Western Caucus asking the Chairman of the Financial Services Committee (Rep. Mike Oxley R-OH) to hold hearings on the Federal Home Loan

Bank System relationships with community banks and their move into securing mortgages instead of helping small business owners and family farm owners.

### Education

Congressman Nunes expressed his support, with other Members of the Hispanic Conference, for the proposed changes in the school lunch program. The proposed changes will make sure that every child who is eligible for the program has access to it and that no one is left out.

### Environment

***Endanger Species Act***  
Rep. Nunes cosponsored H.R. 1662, the Sound Science for Endangered Spe-

cies Act Planning Act sponsored by Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR). This legislation would fix the way in which the ESA uses science and involves the public in its decision-making process. This legislation would improve public participation in the listing and recovery planning process; improve use of peer-reviewed science in making ESA decisions; greater role given to the states and local communities; greater weight given to social and economic impacts; improve processes to enable private landowners to have certainty and take actions to protect species on private lands; and greater financial and technical assistance to states and private citizens.

### Resources

#### *Healthy Forests Initiative*

Rep. Nunes expressed his support for the President's Healthy Forests Initiative by becoming an original co-sponsor of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act which was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Scott McInnis (R-CO). Below is a summary of the bill.

#### *Hazardous Fuels Reduction on Federal Lands*

The Title's purpose is to create procedures that empower local land managers with the tools to expeditiously implement hazardous fuels reduction projects on federal forests and rangelands.

**See Legislation next page**

## Legislation—cont.'d



The Title's underlying premise is simple and clear: Given the massive scale of the threat that catastrophic wildfire poses to the health of pristine forest ecosystems, threatened and endangered species, air quality, water quality and the safety of myriad communities, it is unacceptable that it takes federal land managers upwards of several years to maneuver forest health projects (like thinning and prescribed burns) through sundry procedural and analytical requirements and around various bureaucratic and judicial obstacles.

### *Biomass*

The Biomass Title would establish two grant programs (authorized at \$50 million combined) to encourage energy-related utilization of the otherwise valueless wood, chips, brush, thinnings and slash removed in conjunction with projects on federal forests and rangelands focused on reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire and insect infesta-

tion and disease.

### *Watershed Forestry Assistance*

The Watershed Forestry Title would provide financial and technical support needed by private forest landowners to better manage their lands in order to protect water quality, to restore watershed conditions, to improve municipal drinking water supplies, and to address threats to forest health, including catastrophic wildfire.

### *Accelerated Research to Address Insect Infestations*

The Insect Research Title directs the Department to conduct an accelerated program to plan, conduct, and promote research on bark

beetles, the Hemlock woolly adelgid, and the emerald ash borer.

### *Early Warning Program for Disease and Insect Infestations*

The Title would authorize and direct federal land managers to establish early detection programs for insect and disease infestations, with an emphasis on hardwood forests, so that agencies can isolate and treat adverse conditions before they reach epidemic levels.

### **Taxes**

#### *Internet Taxes*

Congressman Nunes co-sponsored a bill to extend the moratorium on Internet taxes.



U.S. Army soldiers board a C-130 aircraft at an undisclosed location on April 4, 2003. The U.S. Army is deployed here in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Quinton T. Burris, U.S. Air Force)

**Congressman Nunes co-sponsored a bill to expand tax relief to troops. This bill, H.R. 1687, introduced by Reps Culberson (R-TX) and Mike Rogers (R-AL) will extend the federal tax exemption for members of the armed services to the entire active force, instead of just those serving in combat zones.**

## Nunes works to bring tax \$'s back

Congressman Nunes was busy in March and mid-April submitting requests and expressing support on ways to spend taxpayers' dollars to benefit the residents of the 21st Congressional District.

Congress will begin crafting its annual spending bills for 2004 later this year.

Below is a partial list of funding requests Mr. Nunes submitted to various House committees:

### *Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies*

**International Agri-Center:**  
**Tulare** – \$1 million to provide matching funds for the International

Agri-Center, so that it may fully equip the Heritage Complex Learning Center and complete construction of a new 20,000 square foot exhibit pavilion.

**California Olive Industry** – \$766,600 to conduct crucial research and trapping activities related to the olive fruit fly in California.

**Central Valley Applied Agricultural Technology Center: Clovis** – \$1.5 million for the Central Valley Applied Agricultural Technology Center. These funds will be used to develop a project-based learning curriculum that will more effectively address the needs of today's high school students.

**Cutler and Orosi Sewer System** – \$5 million to provide funding for a sanitary sewer system project in the communities of Cutler and Orosi.

**Farm to Market Roads: Tulare** – \$10 million to provide funding for the rehabilitation of farm to market roads in Tulare County.

**Fresno State** – \$1.5 million for the California State University Agriculture Technology Institute.

### *Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary*

**Tulare County rural agriculture crime project** - \$3.9 million for the program known as ACTION Project. These funds would be used



to continue the project and

to develop the "Light Speed Project," which will digitize agricultural crime reports. These monies would also be used to develop a National Resource and Research Center for new technology to fight agricultural crime.

### *Subcommittee on Defense*

**National Guard Counter-drug program** - \$65 million to help all local police forces and federal agencies fight and control meth including \$26 million for the National Guard Counter-drug training schools for local first responders to handle the threats posed by meth and meth use.

**Navy** – \$12 million for research, development, testing, evaluation, and enhancements to the United States Navy's Intelligent Agent Security Module (IASM) - developed by a California based company.

**National Interagency Civil-military Institute (NICI)** - \$6.8 million to produce courseware and conduct an interagency training and exercise program for emergency responders, civic and community leaders, and emergency preparedness managers and executives and for counter-drug purposes.

### *Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development*

\$400,000 to continue Phase III of the **Kaweah River Delta Corridor** Enhancement Study

\$6 million to continue a project to raise **Success Dam**.

\$8.4 million to complete construction of the spillway at **Terminus Dam** on the Kaweah River.

\$4 million to continue the **feasibility study for new water storage on the Upper San Joaquin River**.

\$100,000 for a general feasibility study of **Frazier Creek** near the city of Strathmore, California

\$1.6 million for the Regional Drainage Plan for lands in and around the San Luis Unit of the **Central Valley Project**.

### *Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs*

\$1.5 million to help establish and implement the Central Diagnostic Laboratory in Armenia by the **Armenian Technology Group**

See Appropriations next page

## Appropriations—cont.'d

(ATG).

\$83.4 million to Armenia in the FY 2004 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. **U.S. Military Assistance to Armenia**

### *Subcommittee on Interior*

\$2,943,150 to compensate the **High Sierra Packers Association** (pack stations) for relief from losses incurred as a result of a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) planning disaster and resulting court injunction



Lake Kaweah looking northwesterly toward main Dam with spillway on left.

### *Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education*

\$2 million to start construction of the new tower at **Kaweah Delta Hospital**.

\$1.5 million to continue the operation of the Center for Advance Research and Technology (CART) within the **Clovis Unified School District**

\$2.16 million for the **Fresno Workforce Investment Board** to assist Fresno County in addressing the critical shortage of healthcare workers and nurses through the Western States Healthcare Workforce Alliance.

\$5 million to finish construction of **Children's Hospital** of the Central Valley's Trauma Unit.

Support for an increase in TRIO program which **allows low-income students access to higher education**.

\$350,000 to expand the Art, Science and Knowing (ASK) initiative at the **Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art History and Science**.

\$1.5 million to help expand and strengthen these educational systems and partnerships between the American University of Armenia and U.S. postsecondary institutions.

### *Subcommittee on Military Construction*

\$4.7 million to building a **new medical and security police facility at Fresno Yosemite International Airport** for the 144th FW

### *Subcommittee on Homeland Security*

\$750,000 for the development of an **Agricultural Bioterrorism Preparedness and**

### **Response Plan** by the ACTION Project.

\$1.5 million to conduct a feasibility and environmental study to determine the potential for developing a **Homeland Security Warehouse and Command Post in Porterville**.

\$4 million for the **City of Fresno Police Department to construct an Anti-Terrorism Training Facility** to provide multi-faceted, scenario based training to regional first responders

### *Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Postal, and General Government*

\$5 million to build a 31,500 square foot **Bus Maintenance Facility** in Visalia

\$1 million to develop the **Mill Creek Greenway Trail System** in Visalia

\$20 million increase for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HITDA) program - to include \$1.5 for the Central Valley HITDA

\$4 million to **rehabilitate Farm-to-Market Roads in Tulare County**

\$10 million to study the **widening State Route 99 from Tulare to Kingsburg**.

\$8 million for Fresno Area Express (FAX) to **purchase clean fuel buses**

\$2.3 million to continue to **renovate the historic Santa Fe Depot for Amtrak operations** and completing related supporting infrastructure in Fresno

Report language for the purpose of requesting the United States Postal Service to provide a timeline and anticipated **cost for the completion of an access ramp for the Post Office located at 111 West Acequia Avenue in Visalia**.

## Nunes helps grant posthumous citizenship to Civil War soldiers

Congressman Nunes showed his support for those who fought in the Civil War. He cosponsored H.J.Res. 45 which calls on the United States Government to posthumously confer honorary citizenship



The Ohio Historical marker is a brown, cast-metal sign measuring 46 inches by 42 inches with raised gold lettering. The marker will be located in the Franklin Park of Columbus, Ohio, near the site of the Asian Festival. The Asian Festival is an annual event visited by 75,000 people from Ohio and seven neighboring states.

upon those soldiers of Asian decent who fought in the Civil War and were prohibited from becoming American citizens following the war.

Research has uncovered evidence of more than 250 soldiers of Asian descent who served in the Union and Confederate Armies and Navies during the United States Civil War. Some gave their lives for this country in battle, while others suffered life-long injuries. These soldiers fought bravely during the Civil War and deserve recognition.

## DISTRICT SCRAPBOOK

*In observance of the spring holidays, Congress broke for the final two weeks of April. Rep. Devin Nunes spent the time traveling the district, meeting with constituents and leaders and listening to the concerns of the people he represents.*

Congressman Nunes watches as Fresno County Supervisor Judy Case cuts a ribbon at the new Workforce Connection service center in Reedley. The center offers a menu of services that are targeted to the job seeker and business owner needs. It makes employment and health and human services more accessible to the residents of rural Fresno County.



Donning a United Parcel Service uniform, Rep. Devin Nunes delivers packages in downtown Visalia during Congress' spring recess in April.

The UPS distribution center has been in Visalia since 1954. The congressman toured the facility, spoke to employees and went for a ride along.

The congressman helps children down from a float for the 89th Annual Clovis Rodeo Parade.

The children rode with Mr. Nunes and Fresno County Supervisor Bob Waterston on the parade route. The rodeo caps an entire month of fun activities in Clovis.



KMPH Fox 26 news anchor John Malos helps Rep. Nunes set up for an in-studio interview on his trip to Alaska and reasons for supporting oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The energy bill would open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas leasing, subject to what Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton testified would be:

**“The most stringent environmental protection requirements ever applied to federal energy production.”**

The Energy Security Act of 2003 passed the House of Representatives and awaits action in the Senate.



National Park Service Director Fran Mainella, Rep. George Radanovich (R-Mariposa), and Rep. Devin Nunes welcome school children participating in Earth Day events and explain the importance of Earth Day and National Park Week in Yosemite.

The congressmen were also joined by colleagues for a field hearing on the Yosemite Valley Plan.



Mr. Nunes talks with Kaweah Delta Health Care District CEO Lindsay Mann, left. In the Visalia office, Mr. Nunes meets with former state Sen. Jim Costa, right. During the spring recess the congressman met with dozens of local leaders and spoke to hundreds of residents in Fresno and Tulare counties.



## The American farmer to the rescue?

As the United States begins the process of reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan, an important message should be sent to the world – U.S. farmers stand ready to deliver assistance.

I come from a part of the most productive agricultural region in the world. I know first hand the hard work and dedication of the American farmer. Today, American farm and ranch families produce the most abundant, safe and affordable food and fiber in the world.

Our agricultural resources are unparalleled and no nation matches the productivity of the American farmer. The abundance of food in the United States and the desire of the American farmer to participate on the frontlines along side the troops is a compelling testament to the generous nature of our nation. This is a signal to our friends and allies in the Middle East that the American farmer is a friend to the Iraqi and Afghan people and is ready help.

There are a few obstacles preventing American food from reaching these people and, unfortunately, one of those obstacles may turn

out to be our own government. For too long, the United States has donated money to international aid programs to purchase food on the world market while surplus commodities in the United States, ranging from raisins to milk, sit in huge federally owned storage sheds waiting to be delivered. Unfortunately, the food in these sheds rarely reach those in need and is often sold for pennies on the dollar.

United States taxpayers are a generous people. We support billions of dollars in philanthropic activities around the world each year but only a fraction of those funds ever result in shipping America's diverse agricultural commodities to people in need. It is difficult for me to explain to the people of the agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley of California, why, at times, our government ignores commodity surpluses when determining food assistance programs. In fact, I myself find no reasonable explanation.

American farmers, while producing a superior quantity and quality of food, often are left in the cold. When it

comes to food aid, our government should have a clear policy -- buy American first. Such a broad based investment in American agricultural production would help to revive the worst agricultural economy since the Great Depression.

It is time for the United States government to re-examine how we deliver food aid around the world. Surplus commodities in government sheds should be the first in line for international aid programs and American farmers should be given the opportunity to participate in these programs. When food is delivered to the hungry people in Iraq and Afghanistan, it should not only have the American flag on the packaging, it should have the product of American farmers within.

Farmers, ranchers and residents of rural communities stand ready to help deliver food aid to those in need and are waiting for the call from their government. But they are not holding their collective breaths.



Rep. Devin Nunes was asked to write an editorial on the subject of agriculture for a special supplement in the Washington, D.C. newspaper The Hill. This is the article that was published in the newspaper's April 29 edition.

### Quick Facts

**Agricultural exports are important both to farmers and to the U.S. economy. According to USDA, each \$1 received from agricultural exports stimulates another \$1.47 in supporting activities to produce those exports.**

**Agricultural exports generated an estimated 740,000 full-time civilian jobs, including 444,000 jobs in the non-farm sector in 1998.**

Source: Congressional Research Service